

Senate, April 16, 1998. The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) On and after July 1, 1998,
2 the Commissioner of Education shall include school
3 building projects for the regional
4 vocational-technical schools on the list developed
5 pursuant to section 10-283 of the general
6 statutes.

7 Sec. 2. Section 10-282 of the general
8 statutes, as amended by section 75 of public act
9 97-265, is repealed and the following is
10 substituted in lieu thereof:

11 As used in this chapter, section 10-65, AS
12 AMENDED, and section 10-76e:

13 (1) "Elementary school building" means any
14 public school building designed to house any
15 combination of grades below grade seven or
16 children requiring special education who are
17 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
18 section 10-76d;

19 (2) "Secondary school building" means any
20 public school building designed to house any
21 combination of grades seven through twelve or any
22 regional vocational agriculture center established

23 under the provisions of part IV of chapter 164, OR
24 ANY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL UNDER
25 PART VI OF CHAPTER 164, and may also include any
26 separate combination of grades five and six or
27 grade six with grades seven and eight in a program
28 approved by the State Board of Education when the
29 use of special facilities generally associated
30 with secondary schools is an essential part of the
31 program for all grades included in such school;

32 (3) "School building project", except as used
33 in section 10-289, means (A) the construction,
34 purchase, extension, replacement, renovation or
35 major alteration of a building to be used for
36 public school purposes, including the equipping
37 and furnishing of any such construction, purchase,
38 extension, replacement, renovation or major
39 alteration, the improvement of land therefor, or
40 the improvement of the site of an existing
41 building for public school purposes, but shall not
42 include the cost of a site; (B) the construction
43 and equipping and furnishing of any such
44 construction of any building which the towns of
45 Norwich, Winchester and Woodstock may provide by
46 lease or otherwise for use by the Norwich Free
47 Academy, Gilbert School and Woodstock Academy,
48 respectively, in furnishing education for public
49 school pupils under the provisions of section
50 10-34; and (C) the addition to, renovation of and
51 equipping and furnishing of any such addition to
52 or renovation of any building which may be leased,
53 upon the approval of the State Board of Education,
54 to any local or regional board of education for a
55 term of twenty years or more for use by such local
56 or regional board in furnishing education of
57 public school pupils;

58 (4) "Extension" of an existing school
59 building means the addition to an existing
60 building or remaining portion of an existing
61 building damaged by fire, flood or other natural
62 catastrophe, or the erection of a new structure or
63 group of structures on the same site which,
64 together with the existing building, is designed
65 to house pupils in an educational program under
66 the supervision of one school principal;

67 (5) "Replacement" of a school building means
68 the erection of a new structure on the same or
69 another site to replace a school building totally
70 destroyed by fire, flood or other natural

71 catastrophe or one to be abandoned for school use
72 upon completion of its replacement;

73 (6) "Major alteration" means a capital
74 improvement of an existing building, the total
75 project costs of which exceed ten thousand dollars
76 except for projects approved pursuant to
77 subsection (a) of section 10-65, AS AMENDED, for
78 public school purposes resulting in improved
79 educational conditions;

80 (7) "Code violation" means the correction of
81 any condition in an existing building for public
82 school purposes, the total project costs of which
83 exceed ten thousand dollars, and which condition
84 is in violation of the requirements of the State
85 Building, Fire Safety or Public Health Codes,
86 state or federal Occupational, Safety and Health
87 Administration Codes, federal or state
88 accessibility requirements or regulations of the
89 federal Environmental Protection Agency or the
90 state Department of Environmental Protection,
91 state Department of Public Health regulations for
92 radon or federal standards for lead contamination
93 in school drinking water;

94 (8) "Completed school building project" means
95 a school building project declared complete by the
96 applicant board of education as of the date shown
97 on the final application for grant payment
98 purposes as submitted by said board to the
99 Commissioner of Education or his agent;

100 (9) "Date of beginning of construction" means
101 the date on which the general construction
102 contract or the first phase thereof, purchase
103 agreement or leasing agreement is signed by the
104 authorized agent of the town or regional school
105 district;

106 (10) "Standards" means architectural,
107 engineering and education space specifications and
108 standards for facility eligibility;

109 (11) "Application" or "grant application"
110 means formal notification of intention to apply
111 for a state grant-in-aid for a particular school
112 building project;

113 (12) "Net eligible costs" means eligible
114 project costs adjusted for the state standard
115 education space specifications;

116 (13) "Regional educational service center"
117 means a body corporate and politic established

118 pursuant to the provisions of part IVa of chapter
119 164;

120 (14) "Regional educational service center
121 administrative or service facility" means a
122 building designed for administrative offices or
123 residential facilities, operated by a regional
124 educational service center;

125 (15) "Vocational agriculture" includes
126 vocational aquaculture and marine-related
127 employment;

128 (16) "Bonds or municipal bonds", except as
129 used in section 10-289, means (A) any bond, note,
130 certificate or other evidence of indebtedness, and
131 (B) any energy conservation lease purchase
132 agreement;

133 (17) "Energy conservation lease purchase
134 agreement" means any lease purchase agreement,
135 instalment sale agreement or other similar
136 agreement providing for periodic payments by a
137 town or regional school district which (A) has as
138 its purpose the financing of a school building
139 project concerning energy conservation, (B)
140 separately states the principal and interest
141 components of the periodic payments to be made
142 under the agreement, and (C) provides that the
143 town or regional school district acquire title to
144 the school building project upon payment of the
145 total amount outstanding under the agreement;

146 (18) "Renovation" means a school building
147 project to totally refurbish an existing building
148 as an alternative to new construction and which
149 results in the renovated facility taking on a
150 useful life comparable to that of a new facility.

151 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-74d of
152 the general statutes, as amended by section 12 of
153 public act 97-290, is repealed and the following
154 is substituted in lieu thereof:

155 (c) The state Department of Education may
156 retain up to one per cent of the amount
157 appropriated for interdistrict cooperative grants
158 pursuant to this section for state-wide technical
159 assistance, program monitoring and evaluation, and
160 administration AND MAY RETAIN UP TO ONE PER CENT
161 OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH GRANTS FOR THE
162 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS FOR INTERDISTRICT
163 SUMMER SCHOOL, WEEKEND AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

164 Sec. 4. The Commissioner of Education shall
165 contract for a facilities and operations audit of

166 the regional vocational-technical school system by
167 a certified public accounting firm. The contract
168 shall include an analysis of the capital needs of
169 each vocational-technical school, including
170 infrastructure needs, needs related to the
171 correction of safety and health code problems and
172 equipment needs.

173 Sec. 5. (a) The Department of Education, in
174 collaboration with The University of Connecticut
175 School of Engineering and the Central Connecticut
176 State University Manufacturing Center, shall
177 develop a plan for the establishment of
178 pre-engineering and technology programs at three
179 regional vocational-technical schools located in
180 different regions of the state.

181 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall
182 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
183 general statutes, on such plan to the joint
184 standing committee of the General Assembly having
185 cognizance of matters relating to education by
186 January 1, 1999.

187 Sec. 6. Section 1 of public act 97-39 is
188 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
189 thereof:

190 Each local and regional board of education
191 shall provide [an opportunity for the recruitment
192 of students by] FULL ACCESS TO regional
193 vocational-technical schools, regional vocational
194 agricultural centers, interdistrict magnet
195 schools, charter schools and interdistrict student
196 attendance programs FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF
197 STUDENTS ATTENDING THE SCHOOLS UNDER THE BOARD'S
198 JURISDICTION, provided such recruitment is not for
199 the purpose of interscholastic athletic
200 competition.

201 Sec. 7. (NEW) The Board of Trustees for the
202 Community-Technical Colleges shall establish
203 procedures for (1) the development of articulation
204 agreements between the regional
205 community-technical colleges and the regional
206 vocational-technical schools in order to ensure a
207 successful transition to higher education for
208 students attending the regional
209 vocational-technical schools and (2) the awarding
210 of appropriate college credit for persons enrolled
211 in and registered under the terms of a qualified
212 apprenticeship training program, certified in
213 accordance with regulations adopted by the Labor

214 Commissioner and registered with the Connecticut
215 State Apprenticeship Council established under
216 section 31-51b of the general statutes.

217 Sec. 8. Section 10a-12a of the general
218 statutes is repealed and the following is
219 substituted in lieu thereof:

220 There shall be a Technical Education
221 Coordinating Council. The council shall consist of
222 the following members: The CHAIRPERSONS AND
223 RANKING MEMBERS OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES
224 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVING COGNIZANCE OF
225 MATTERS RELATING TO EDUCATION AND COMMERCE, OR
226 THEIR DESIGNEES; THE Commissioners of Higher
227 Education and Economic and Community Development
228 and the Labor Commissioner or their designees; the
229 chief executive officers of each constituent unit
230 of the state system of higher education, or their
231 designees; the president of the Connecticut
232 Conference of Independent Colleges; [and a
233 representative of the state Department of
234 Education with administrative responsibility for
235 vocational technical education. The Commissioner
236 of Higher Education shall convene the first
237 meeting of the council not later than October 1,
238 1989.] THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
239 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; ONE MEMBER WHO
240 IS A TEACHER AT A REGIONAL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL
241 SCHOOL DESIGNATED BY THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE
242 OF THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL TEACHERS'
243 BARGAINING UNIT; TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE PARENTS OF
244 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
245 DESIGNATED BY THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
246 PARENTS' ASSOCIATION; ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING EACH
247 OF THE ECONOMIC CLUSTERS IDENTIFIED PURSUANT TO
248 SECTION 32-4g DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF
249 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; ONE MEMBER
250 DESIGNATED BY THE CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND
251 INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION; ONE MEMBER DESIGNATED BY THE
252 MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL; AND ONE MEMBER
253 DESIGNATED BY THE CONNECTICUT TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL.
254 THE COCHAIRPERSON OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
255 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVING COGNIZANCE OF
256 MATTERS RELATING TO EDUCATION, OR THEIR DESIGNEES,
257 SHALL JOINTLY CONVENE A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL NOT
258 LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 1998. The council shall meet
259 at least six times a year to review and evaluate
260 the coordinated delivery of technical and
261 technological education to meet the employment

262 needs of business and industry. THE COUNCIL SHALL
263 ALSO EXPLORE WAYS TO: (1) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO
264 PURSUE TECHNICAL CAREERS, INCLUDING THE
265 DEVELOPMENT OR EXPANSION OF ALTERNATIVE TRAINING
266 METHODS THAT MAY IMPROVE THE DELIVERY AND
267 ACCESSIBILITY OF VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRAINING;
268 (2) ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION FOR STUDENTS
269 FROM THE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS TO
270 POST SECONDARY EDUCATION; AND (3) IMPROVE PUBLIC
271 AWARENESS REGARDING MANUFACTURING CAREERS. On or
272 before January 1, [1991] 1999, and annually
273 thereafter, the [Board of Governors of Higher]
274 COMMISSIONER OF Education shall report, IN
275 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 11-4a, to the joint
276 standing [committee] COMMITTEES of the General
277 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
278 education AND COMMERCE on the activities of the
279 council in the prior year.
280 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect July 1,
281 1998.

282 ED COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 31 NAY 0 JFS C/R FIN
283 FIN COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 45 NAY 0 JF

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 521

STATE IMPACT	Cost, Implements a Provision of the Budget, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	Potential Revenue Loss, see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Education, Constituent Units of Higher Education

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The bill requires a facilities and operations audit of the vo-tech system for which \$100,000 has been provided in the budget as passed by the Appropriations committee (sHB 5021). All other sections of the bill can be carried out by the involved state agencies with their existing resources.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: The allowance for the State Department of Education to retain 1% of the Interdistrict Cooperation Grant for usage at the vo-tech schools results in a revenue loss to local and regional school districts which would otherwise have received these funds. The budget as passed by the Appropriations Committee (sHB 5021) contains \$9.7 million in this account. Therefore, \$97,000 could be directed to the vo-tech schools.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 521

AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS**SUMMARY:** This bill:

1. requires vocational-technical school building projects to be included on the school construction priority list;
2. requires a facilities and operations audit of the vo-tech system by a certified public accounting firm;
3. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop plans for pre-engineering and technology programs at three vo-tech schools;
4. allows the SDE to retain up to 1% more of the interdistrict cooperative grants appropriation to fund interdistrict summer school, weekend, and after-school programs at the vo-tech schools;
5. requires community-technical colleges to give college credit for approved apprenticeship training;
6. requires agreements between the vo-tech schools and the community-technical colleges to assure successful transition to higher education;
7. requires school districts to give vo-tech, interdistrict magnet, and charter schools; regional vocational-agriculture centers; and interdistrict attendance programs better access to recruit students; and
8. revamps the membership and responsibilities of the Technical Education Coordinating Council.

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1998

FURTHER EXPLANATION**Vocational-Technical School Construction Projects**

Starting July 1, 1998, the bill requires the education commissioner to include vo-tech school building projects on the regular school construction priority list submitted to the General Assembly for approval every year. Once approved, the list authorizes the commissioner to enter into grant commitments for the approved projects.

Vo-Tech System Audit

The bill requires the education commissioner to hire a certified public accounting firm to do a facilities and operations audit of the vo-tech system. As part of the contract, the bill requires an analysis of each school's capital needs for infrastructure, health and safety code problems, and equipment.

Pre-Engineering and Technology Programs

The bill requires the SDE to work with the UConn School of Engineering and the Connecticut State University Manufacturing Center to develop a plan to establish pre-engineering and technology programs at three regional vo-tech schools in three different parts of the state. The education commissioner must report to the Education Committee on the plan by January 1, 1999.

College Credit and Transition to College

The bill requires the community-technical colleges board of trustees to set up procedures for (1) developing agreements between community-technical colleges and regional vo-tech schools to assure vo-tech students a successful transition to higher education and (2) awarding college credit for those enrolled in and registered under an apprentice training program certified by the labor commissioner and registered with the State Apprenticeship Council.

Recruiting Students

Under current law, school districts must give regional vo-tech schools, interdistrict magnet schools, regional vo-ag centers, charter schools, and interdistrict

student attendance programs the opportunity to recruit students. This bill requires instead that districts give such schools and programs full access in order to recruit students. The programs and schools are still barred from athletic recruiting.

Technical Education Coordinating Council

The bill adds the following members to the council:

1. the chairs and ranking members of the Education and Commerce committees or their designees;
2. the superintendent of the vo-tech system;
3. a vo-tech school teacher, appointed by the vo-tech teachers' union;
4. one member representing each of the industry clusters established by the Connecticut Economic Conference board, designated by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) commissioner;
5. one member designated by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association;
6. one member designated by the Manufacturing Assistance Council;
7. one member designated by the Connecticut Technology Council; and
8. two parents of vo-tech students, designated by the vocational-technical school parents association.

The bill eliminates the SDE representative with administrative responsibility for vo-tech education. It retains the following current members:

1. the labor, higher education, and DECD commissioners or their designees;
2. the chief executive officers of the state public higher education constituent units or their designees; and

3. the president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges.

Instead of requiring the higher education commissioner to convene the council, the bill requires the Education Committee chairmen or their designees to do so by October 1, 1998.

The bill requires the council to explore ways to (1) encourage students to pursue technical careers, including developing or expanding alternative training to improve the delivery and accessibility of vo-tech training; (2) ensure a successful transition from vo-tech schools to post-secondary education; and (3) improve public knowledge of manufacturing careers. The council must also continue its current responsibility for evaluating the coordinated delivery of technical and technological education in order to meet employment needs.

Instead of requiring the Board of Governor's of Higher Education to send an annual report of the council's activities just to the Education Committee, the bill requires the education commissioner to make the report to both the Education and Commerce committees (even though the education commissioner is not a member of the council).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 31 Nay 0

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 45 Nay 0